



Montville Township Public
Schools Newsletter
January 2016



Parent Input Sought on Indicators of Student Success

In July 2015, the Montville Township Board of Education established four main district goals for the 2015-2016 school year. The fourth goal area is to develop a culture of continuous improvement within all of the district schools. One of the action items for that goal is to conduct a survey of district parents to collect input regarding their perceptions of "success indicators" at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

Online surveys are available through Survey Monkey. Parents are encouraged to access the appropriate surveys and provide responses. The links to the surveys can be found below. The surveys will be open for parent input until **Friday, February 19, 2016**.

The link for the [elementary](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y88F5FR) school survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y88F5FR>

The link for the **Lazar** survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YKX3TMS>

The link for the **MTHS** survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YK9YFGQ>

The parent responses will be used to develop a Student Success Profile to be used to analyze district performance relative to the identified indicators.

Montville Township Board of Education Reorganizes New president to lead the Board for 2016



On January 5, 2016, the Montville Township Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting. Dr. Matthew Kayne was elected Board President and Ms. Carmela Novi was elected at the Board Vice President.



The Common Core Standards and PARCC

New Jersey State Board of Education receives reports from Commissions

At the State Board of Education meeting on January 6, 2016, the Standards Review Committee, that had been created at the direction of Governor Christie last May, presented its report and recommendations. The State Board will be conducting public testimony sessions on the recommendations with a goal of final approval in the spring. Currently the state of New Jersey has curriculum standards with different names: Core Curriculum Content Standards in social studies, world language, health and physical education, etc., the Next Generation Science Standards, and the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. One of the recommendations is to rename all of the standards under the heading of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The Committee's recommendation is to retain the Common Core State Standards although they have made some recommendations to make some additions in terms of the wording of certain standards and some minor movement of specific standards in the K-2 ELA standards. There were no grade level placement changes to the math standards. **By and large, therefore, the essence of the Common Core State Standards will remain as the adopted standards for math and ELA in New Jersey.**

Also at the State Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, the Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments in New Jersey presented its final report. The Commission also had conducted a series of public testimony sessions around the state. This report contains a series of 49 separate recommendations. **Most importantly, the Commission recommended that the State of New Jersey continue its involvement with the PARCC Consortium and continue the use of the PARCC as the state assessment.** The Commission further recommended that the

PARCC be included as a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2021 (this would be the current 7th grade class).

We now have a clear indication at the state level that Common Core and PARCC will continue to be part of the fabric of education in New Jersey. Next week, information will be emailed to parents regarding the 2016 administration of the PARCC assessment. The letter will explain to parents that the district intends to use PARCC results as one of the criteria for course placement and honors determinations for the 2016-2017 school year.

Bits and Pieces.....

At the January 19, 2016 Board of Education meeting, the following Governor's Teacher/Educators of the Year were honored:

Cedar Hill School - Catherine Lundquist
 Hilldale School - Courtney Przestrzelski
 Valley View School - Kimberly DeMaria
 William Mason School - Christine Auten
 Woodmont School - Debra Jarvie
 Lazar Middle School - Seth Miller
 Montville Township High School - Heather Einstein



Also honored were the recipients of the Governor's Educational Services Professional Award:

Cedar Hill School - Jessica D'Angelo
 Hilldale School - Matthew Natale
 Valley View School - Elizabeth Jemas
 William Mason School - Elizabeth Wigley
 Woodmont School - Douglas Stech
 Lazar Middle School - Lisa Tobin-Cook
 Montville Township High School - Donald Heyburn

The Board also recognized Dr. Sarah Lawler, teacher at Montville Township High School, for being named as a recipient of the prestigious Princeton University Distinguished Secondary School Educator Award.



Kudos to the students of Valley View School for continuing their participation in the Math-a-Thon for the 15th consecutive year. Since the start of their involvement in this annual event, [Valley View School](#) has raised over \$122,000 to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. All students can go to www.mathathon.org to sponsor a student or school, participate in the Math-a-Thon, or just to play math games.

In December, the Lazar Middle School students participated in a holiday gift drive through the Division of Youth and Families and collected toys to fulfill the wishes of 168 children.

Work on the Montville Township High School newly renovated Media Center is complete. A [ribbon cutting ceremony](#), attended by almost 200 students, faculty and community members, was held Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Monday, January 25 was the first day the center began instructional use by students and faculty. Media Center hours have been extended. The Media Center is now open from 6:20 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. During the week of exams, the Media Center will be open from 6:20 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



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*"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."
~Robert Maynard Hutchins*

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